REMARKS

This Amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination. Applicant requests continued examination.

Claims 1-8, 16 and 17 are pending in this application. Claims 9-15, 18 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended.

Claims 1-8, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Harrington, US Patent No. 6,400,467.

Claim 1 as amended claims a method of improving edge rendering of objects at a common edge of two different object types in which a hint for one object disables rendering that would be pleasing at the boundary of the other object, comprising: providing a first object which has a portion of a common edge with a second object; wherein the first object has associated with it a first region of a tag plane for defining rendering hints for rendering the first object, wherein each pixel in the first object has a corresponding pixel hint in the first region of the tag plane; wherein the second object has associated with it a second region of the tag plane for defining rendering hints for rendering the second object, wherein each pixel in the second object has a corresponding pixel hint in second region of the tag plane; specifying a number of pixels located on the portion of the common edge between the first object and the second object to be modified, wherein modification may include increasing or decreasing the number of pixels on one of the first object or the second object; and modifying the first region of the tag plane corresponding to the first object by the specified number of pixels at the boundary of the first and second objects without modifying the corresponding pixels in the first object, wherein the specified number of pixel hints in the first region of the tag plane are modified without modifying the corresponding pixels in the first object. Claim 16 has been similarly amended.

Harrington describes a method and apparatus for locating and coloring true boundaries of image elements forming a color image defined with colors having one or more color separations. Once a boundary of an image element is located and determined to be a true boundary of the color image, the original color of the image element boundary is mapped to a solid color so that ragged edges created when rendering certain colors are minimized when reproducing the color

image element. (See Abstract of Harrington.)

Harrington changes the color of the pixel at the edge of the object; Applicant's method modifies the tag (rendering hint) associated with a group of pixels at the boundary without modifying the corresponding pixel.

Applicant's method "dilates" (or contracts) the tag boundaries associated with negative text or line art. For example, for negative text or line art, raggedness at the boundary can be solved by one pixel growth of the text tag plane outward (and a corresponding one pixel contraction of the fill tag plane), but it is not limited to this in the general case. In fact, this technique is not limited to negative text/line art; it can be applied to all object types, depending on need. The method may be used whenever two different object types share a portion of a common edge boundary and the rendering hint for the second object type conflicts with the rendering hint for the first object type. The color of the pixel is the same; only the rendering hint changes according to the change in the tag plane.

Claims 1-8 and 16-17 are believed to be patentable.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment; however, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

Reconsideration of this application and allowance thereof are earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner considers a personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned Attorney for Applicant, Jeannette Walder.

Respectfully submitted,

/Jeannette M. Walder, Reg. #30,698/
Jeannette M. Walder
Attorney for Applicant
Telephone: 714-565-1700

Xerox Corporation
Santa Ana, California
Date: January 31, 2008